



GIRLS WRESTLING SANCTIONING FAQ

PIAA sponsorship of girls wrestling at the high school and junior high level will take effect for the 2023-2024 season. Girls wrestling has been voted on by the PIAA with the same rules as boys wrestling. We realize even with that preface, that there are many questions about girls wrestling under sanctioning. We hope the following information will be helpful to you.

Please note that this document is not meant to replace printed PIAA policy. All PIAA rules apply, even if not mentioned in this FAQ. For additional information, please consult the PIAA website: www.piaa.org

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Weight Classes and General Structure of Girls Wrestling

When will girls wrestling be a PIAA sport?

PIAA jurisdiction begins July 1, 2023. The 2023-2024 season will be the first wrestling season where girls wrestling is under PIAA jurisdiction.

Will JH girls wrestling be a PIAA sponsored sport in addition to girls HS wrestling?

Yes. Please see the JH Girls Wrestling section. In addition, the core information in this FAQ also applies to JH girls wrestling.

Will girls wrestling be a winter sport?

Yes.

Will girls wrestle folkstyle or freestyle?

Folkstyle.

How many classifications will there be for girls wrestling?

Girls wrestling will have one classification. In other words, girls will not be divided into AA or AAA.

Are the rules for girls wrestling the same as boys wrestling?

Yes. In high school, girls wrestle folkstyle during the scholastic season, just like the boys do. The same NFHS rules that are in place for PIAA boys wrestling apply to girls wrestling. Further, the same officials can be used since the rule set is the same. This is consistent with what other states are doing across the country.

What are the weight classes for HS girls?

Girls wrestling will follow the NFHS 13-weight classes for girls: 100, 106, 112, 118, 124, 130, 136, 142, 148, 155, 170, 190, 235.

What are the weight classes for JH girls?

This has yet to be determined.

Will there be a 2-pound weight allowance for girls like there is for boys?

Yes, girls will be given a 2-pound allowance after December 25.

Do girls have to use the OPC and follow weight descent plans?

Yes. Whether a girl is on a boys team or a girls team, they must follow all PIAA rules, including completing and passing hydration testing, completing weight certifications, and following weight descent plans in TrackWrestling.

Are weight certifications different for girls?

Girls follow the same weight certification procedures as the boys. Note that for girls, there are adjustments in how body fat is measured and also in the minimum body fat allowed (12%). This holds true whether a girl is on a boys team or a girls team. The assessor at your school (often the athletic trainer) will be able to walk you through this process.

Are weigh-ins different for girls?

Weigh-ins are also conducted the same way as the boys and with the new weigh-in rules (required to be wearing legal uniform), girls and boys can now weigh in at the same time in the same space. More specifically, NFHS rules state: All contestants shall weigh-in wearing a legal uniform (4-1-1) and a suitable undergarment that completely covers the buttocks and the groin area. Contestants shall not weigh-in wearing shoes or ear guards. Female contestants shall also wear a sports bra that completely covers their breasts and minimizes the risk of exposure. For female contestants wearing a compression shirt under a one-piece singlet in order to comply with the definition of a legal uniform (4-1-1). If the compression shirt is part of the legal uniform, the contestant shall weigh-in wearing the compression shirt.

What do girls wear when they wrestle?

Girls follow NFHS uniform rules. These rules state that female contestants wearing a one-piece singlet shall wear a sports bra that completely covers their breasts and minimizes the risk of exposure. Compression shirts worn underneath a one-piece singlet are permitted but not required for female contestants unless needed to ensure complete coverage. A suitable undergarment, which completely covers the buttocks and groin area, must also be worn under a one-piece singlet.

If wearing a compression shirt, it can't cover or extend below the elbow and shall have a minimum 3-inch tail; the form-fitted compression shirt may be worn under a singlet or with compression shorts or shorts designed for wrestling. The form-fitted compression shirt shall be school-issued. Female contestants choosing to wear a form-fitted compression shirt, whether as part of a two-piece uniform or under a one-piece singlet, shall also wear a sports bra that completely covers their breasts and minimizes the risk of exposure.

What do girls have to do with their hair when they wrestle?

Previous hair length requirements were eliminated several years ago. Girls and boys with longer hair are no longer required to wear a hair cap when they wrestle, and are not required to pull their hair back.

If a girl chooses to pull her hair back or has anything else in her hair, the rules state that hair control devices and other adornments in the hair that are securely fastened and do not present an increased risk to the wrestler, teammates or opponents are allowed. In other words, a girl may pull her hair back with a rubberband or other safe material. If a wrestler chooses to wear a hair cap (not required), it must be attached to the headgear. The legal hair cover must be of a solid material and be nonabrasive. The wrestler opting to wear a legal hair cover must wear it to the weigh-in procedure and be checked for grooming with it on. The legal hair cover must be removed prior to the wrestler stepping on the scale to be weighed.

Can a girl wrestle on a boys team at a school that doesn't have a girls team?

Yes. A girl at a school without a girls team is permitted to wrestle on the school's boys team, subject to local school policies. She is also eligible to compete in the girls post-season. She cannot compete in both the girls and boys individual post-season, but she can participate in one.

Can a girl wrestle on a boys team at a school that has a girls team?

If a school has both a boys and girls team, a girl could compete solely on the boys team if it is determined that the girls team would not adequately meet the needs of the female athlete. In other words, if the girl is competing at such a high level that she cannot obtain sufficient competition against girls and can be highly competitive with the boys. This would be permitted per Article XVI Section 4 Item A in the PIAA by-laws and would require the signature of the Principal. If a girl chooses to wrestle on the boys team (with principal approval), when there is also a girls team at her school, then that girl cannot opt into the girls post-season.

Can a girl be on both a boys team and a girls team?

No. Under PIAA rules, a student-athlete cannot be rostered on the boys and girls team at the same time in any sport. A girl will need to be rostered on either a girls team or a boys team. Also, a girl cannot switch between the boys and girls team in the same season. A girl can change her team membership between seasons (with principal approval), but not during a season.

Do 9th grade girls wrestle for the JH or HS?

9th grade girls can wrestle for either the HS or JH team, but not both in the same season. At the level they choose (HS or JH), they must be rostered on either a girls team or a boys team. They cannot be rostered on both teams and cannot switch membership in the same season. 9th grade girls who roster with the JH team (boys or girls) cannot enter the high school post-season.

Coaching and Practices

Can the coaching staff of the boys team also coach the girls team?

Yes! You can also have a totally different coaching staff or a mixed coaching staff – for example, the same head coach for both teams but different assistants. Of the schools that have already formed girls' team, there has been at least one school that has chosen each option (totally new staff, exact same staff as the boys, addition of one assistant, addition of volunteer). Each school can choose the format that works best for them.

Can the girls HS coach also coach JH girls?

Yes. Coaches can be shared across HS and JH. In terms of what HS and JH practicing together can look like, see the following questions.

Can the boys and girls teams at a school practice together?

Yes. There is no PIAA policy to prevent the boys and girls teams from practicing together. Joint practices across boys and girls teams does not happen in every sport but is common in certain sports, including track and field, cross country, swimming, etc. For wrestling, joint practices will may make the most sense for your school, and that is fully acceptable under PIAA rules. Note that the PIAA does require that teams practicing together are at the same level (i.e., both HS teams or both JH teams), or, that if JH and HS are practicing together, that JH and HS wrestlers do not wrestle each other (see next question).

Can JH girls practice with HS girls?

PIAA by-laws prohibit JH and HS wrestlers from physically wrestling each other. Further, JH athletes may not physically practice with or against athletes at the HS level. However, schools are permitted to hold practices with JH and HS athletes present within the same space and receiving common instruction.

What are our logistical options for coaching and practices for girls teams?

Many coaching and practice options exist for girls teams. The girls and boys JH teams can share practices and wrestle each other in those practices while having the same, additional, or separate coaching staff. The girls and boys HS teams can also share practices and wrestle each other in those practices while having the same, additional, or separate coaching staff. The girls team at the HS or JH can also hold practices separately from the boys, either at a different time or in the same space, at the same time, but while receiving different instruction. Finally, HS and JH teams can share practices as long as HS and JH wrestlers don't physically wrestle each other at those practices and they can have the same, additional, or separate coaching staff. With many schools previously having run combined JH and HS girls' practices, for schools wanting to continue that model, they could use the same coaching staff for the girls JH and HS teams (with possible overlap with the JH and/or HS boys coaching staff) and have the JH and HS girls teams continue to practice together. Ultimately, each school can use the logistical structure that works best for their particular situation.

Competition Points

All PIAA wrestling teams (girls and boys) can have a maximum of 22 competition points in a season. For coaches new to this, here is a breakdown of what competition points are and how they accumulate.

- In-season competitions (duals, tournaments, etc.) earn competition points of varying values. More information on point values is below.
- Post-season competitions (districts, Regionals, States) do NOT earn competition points. A maximum of 22 competition points does not count post-season competitions.
- Competition points are calculated per team, not per individual athlete.
- Participation of at least one team member in an event accrues competition points for the entire team that participant represents. For example, if you have a girls team of 7 girls and send one of them to a 3-point competition, that means that the entire girls team now has used 3 competition points. On the flip side, even if a wrestler on the team does not participate in an event, they are still bound by the team allotment.

Competition Point Values (same as boys wrestling)

Dual meet = 1 competition point

Triangular meet (3 teams, 2 matches each) = 2 competition points

Individual or team bracketed tournament involving no more than 8 teams = 2 competition points

Individual or team bracketed tournament with 9 or more teams = 3 competition points

One-day multiple school (dual) or individual pool (round robin) = 3 competition points

Quad meet (4 teams, 3 matches each) = 3 competition points

Note: A PIAA-member school may participate in no more than two (2) team or individual pool or round robin events, excluding triangular and quadrangular meets, during the Regular Season.

Do we earn competition points even if we do not roster a full girls team? For example, if our girls team wrestled a dual against another team, would it still be one competition point if we do not have a full line-up and therefore several forfeits?

Yes, this would still count as a dual and one competition point. This is the same for boys teams. Even boys teams that enter events/duals and have forfeits still earn competition points.

Do JV tournaments count as competition points? Can we go to those?

JV tournaments earn JV competition points. There is a maximum of 22 JV competition points in a season for a team. These are separate from the varsity team's 22 varsity competition points.

For girls on boys teams, they can attend JV tournaments with the JV boys team and this would count as competition points for the boys JV team.

For girls teams, participating in JV tournaments counts as competition points for the girls JV team. JV tournaments would not count as varsity competition points. A maximum of 22 varsity competition points can be met in one season according to PIAA guidelines for boys and girls teams. Girls on a girls JV team can still attend JV tournaments and they can be a great way to get matches in, it is just important to make sure that varsity competition points are achieved for the girls varsity team.

What if our boys team is wrestling another school in a dual and we can make a few girl match-ups. Will that count as competition points?

Competition points will go back to the team that the competing athlete is rostered on.

If both schools have a girls team, then wrestling matches will count as one competition point for each girls team.

If the girls are on the boys team at both schools, then wrestling matches where girls are wrestling girls will not be an additional competition point because those matches are just more

matches of School A's boys team wrestling School B's boys team, just like every other match up in the dual. Note that this would count as a JV competition point for both boys teams unless the match-up is at one of the designated 13 weight classes for boys in the dual.

If School A has girls rostered on a girls team and School B has girls rostered on the boys team, then it will count as one competition for School A's girls team and one competition point for School B's boys team. Note that if School B was wrestling a boys dual against School A's boys team, and then wants their girls to wrestle the girls from School A, who are on a girls team, School B will actually use two competition points – one because their boys wrestled School A's boys and team and one because their girls wrestled School A's girls team. School A's girls and boys teams are separate teams, so if another school would wrestle both of them, it would be one competition point for School B to wrestle School A boys team and another competition point to wrestle School A's girls team. If your school does NOT have a girls team, make sure you are aware of whether the opposing team has a separate girls team before creating these types of match-ups. They are permitted, but it will cost competition points to the boys team.

In-Season Competitions

What is necessary for a girl to be eligible to compete in in-season PIAA events?

A student-athlete must adhere to all PIAA rules. Some of these rules include obtaining a PIAA physical, being rostered with a PIAA wrestling team (boys or girls), maintaining academic eligibility, and undergoing weight certification and hydration testing.

A girl can attend in-season events scheduled by the school as a member of her school's boys team or girls team. The events she will enter will likely depend on whether she is a member of the school's girls team or boys team. Please see below for more information.

Information For Girls On Girls Teams

Where can girls on girls teams compete?

Girls on girls teams (HS or JH) have many options when it comes to competition opportunities. Like boys, girls can wrestle in duals, varsity tournaments, and JV tournaments. For a girls team, it is likely that these events will include wrestling other girls teams.

A list of in-season girls HS and JH tournaments can be found at www.sanctionpa.com/events
If you are hosting a girls tournament, please reach out to us at sanctionpa@gmail.com and we will add your event to the list.

Note that, according to PIAA rules, "no Inter-School Practice, Scrimmage, or Contest may be played with a Team not sponsored and controlled by a public school or Private School nor any school not belonging to PIAA, unless the non-PIAA member school's eligibility rules for school, Team, and contestants meet the requirements of PIAA." As an official girls team, all competitions must follow these guidelines. A team cannot compete against a club or other team that does not meet the above requirements.

How will in-season girls events be run under sanctioning?

For in-season events, teams typically are either invited or request to attend a tournament, sign a contract, pay an entry fee, the host team and attending teams put the event in the OPC, official weigh-ins are conducted, PIAA rules are followed ([including tournament sanctioning rules](#)), and weights and results are entered into the OPC.

Do we need to have a full girls roster to compete?

No! Teams can be formed without having any girls identified for the team and, once formed, teams can compete even if they only have one girl on the roster. That girl will earn competition points the same way a full team would. Further, duals are not required to have full line-ups. Pennsylvania will grow towards the dual-meet model where teams have fuller line-ups, but growth across the state will take time.

Our school has an official girls team but can a girl still wrestle with the boys team?

If a school has both a boys and girls team, a girl could compete solely on the boys team if it is determined that the girls team would not adequately meet the needs of the female athlete. In other words, if the girl is competing at such a high level that she cannot obtain sufficient competition against girls and can be highly competitive with the boys. This would be permitted per Article XVI Section 4 Item A in the PIAA by-laws and would require the signature of the Principal. [If a girl chooses to wrestle on the boys team when there is also a girls team at her school, then that girl cannot opt into the girls post-season.](#)

Do schools have to dual teams in their area and adhere to meeting a certain number of dual meets within their area/league?

Those determinations are made by district and league committees. It is expected that most areas will not require this for girls wrestling teams to start, but you will need to confirm with your local wrestling league/district.

How many girls can be entered into an in-season tournament per weight class?

In HS competition involving varsity regular season individually bracketed tournaments with 9 or more teams, a team may, at the discretion of the Tournament Director, enter an additional wrestler per weight class without counting as additional team competitions. This means that as many as 2 girls per weight class can be entered in certain in-season tournaments.

At the sub-varsity level, a team may enter up to three contestants per weight class, in an individual tournament, without counting additional competition points.

Note that these are the maximum number allowed and it could be less depending on the tournament since the number of allowable entries is at the discretion of the tournament director.

Do girls teams need a JV squad?

Due to in-season and post-season competitions not allowing an unlimited number of girls to enter per weight class, girls teams will want to develop JV squads and attend JV tournaments, which can help get all of their girls more matches.

Do JV tournaments count for competition points?

Teams have a separate allotment of varsity and JV competition points each season. JV tournaments accrue JV competition points. Teams may not exceed 22 JV competition points per season.

Information For Girls On Boys Teams

Where can girls on boys teams compete?

Girls on boys teams can enter boys events, including duals, varsity tournaments, and JV tournaments. Note that a school with a boys team is not forbidden from registering their female athletes for a girls event, however, this will utilize boys competition points because the competition points get charged to the team the competing athlete is rostered on.

With school approval, girls on boys teams can also enter non-sanctioned open tournaments, however it's important to note a couple things. First, these events would not count towards the girl's official school record and therefore would not be considered for post-season seeding. Also, if a girl would attend an open tournament, they cannot represent their school so they cannot wear their school singlet. They would need to represent their club or hometown. In addition, they can't be coached by someone serving in an official capacity as school coach at that event. In other words, they need to be serving as a private citizen and not as a coach of the high school.

If a school only has a boys team (no girls team), can the girls enter a girls tournaments during the season?

A girl that is rostered on a boys team is not prohibited from entering girls' tournaments during the season, however, the girl would use boys competition points for the event. Competition points for the team the athlete is rostered on are used, so if the girl is on a boys team, the event will count against the boys team competition point allotment. If the school has a girls team and the girl is rostered on the girls team, then the girl would use girls competition points for the event.

What if an in-season tournament is running separate boys and girls divisions? If our boys are wrestling in the boys division and we have girls enter the girls division, would that count as additional competition points?

Yes. A separate girls division at a tournament would count as additional competition points, as it's viewed as an additional event.

If a school only has a boys team (no girls team), in order to accommodate our female wrestlers being able to compete in in-season girls' events, would we need to drop some of our boys' schedule to account for girls' events?

If you have a boys team only, a girl on your boys team would not be able to enter PIAA girls events without it using boys competition points. To accommodate the girls on the boys team, dropping events on the boys schedule would not be recommended. Instead, the school could form a girls team, which gives the girls team their own set of competition points.

Can the girls on my roster enter an open event during the season and not have it count against the team competition points?

Yes, with school approval, girls can enter an open event without it impacting their school's competition points. However, the girls must be competing independently of their school. They would need to represent their club or hometown. In addition, they can't be coached by someone serving in an official capacity as school coach at that event. In other words, they need to be serving as a private citizen and not as a coach of the high school.

Hosting In-Season Competitions

What do we need to know about hosting an in-season girls dual?

Any dual you host will be the same as what a school does for the boys. You will need to conduct your dual adhering to all PIAA rules – this includes using a weigh-in sheet, conducting official weigh-ins, utilizing girls weight classes, and recording results in the OPC, etc.

What do we need to know about hosting an in-season girls tournament?

If you are hosting a girls tournament, tournament directors should ensure PIAA rules are followed. This includes ensuring that all schools attending are PIAA-member schools or ensuring the non-PIAA member school's eligibility rules for school, team, and contestants meet the requirements of PIAA, conducting formal weigh-ins with a weigh-in sheet, and following PIAA rules in the execution of the tournament (e.g., ensuring the tournament is set up that the total maximum number of matches allowed in a day for an athlete is not exceeded, use of PIAA officials, etc.). The tournament may also require PIAA sanctioning approval. Information on sanctioning can be accessed here: <http://www.piaa.org/schools/tournaments/default.aspx>. Further, it is recommended that directors record and maintain tournament results.

How do I designate a tournament I am running as a PIAA tournament?

To designate that your tournament is a PIAA tournament versus an open tournament, ensure only PIAA-member schools, or school teams that can meet PIAA eligibility requirements are invited to attend.

Post-Season Competitions

Is there a state tournament for JH girls?

There is no PIAA State tournament on the JH level. This is true for all PIAA sports.

Is there a state tournament for HS girls?

PIAA will sponsor a girls individual state championship, beginning in March 2024. It will be held with the boys in the Giant Center, March 7-9, 2024.

Will there be a team dual championship for HS girls wrestling teams?

There will not be a team dual championship for girls wrestling teams in 2023-2024. The PIAA will evaluate a potential future team dual championship for girls teams.

If a school only has a boys team, will girls on the boys team be eligible to wrestle in the post-season girls events? In other words, if a school has NOT approved a girls program, can a girl from that district participate in the girls post-season?

If a school only has a boys team on which girls are competing, then the girls can declare to either enter the girls or boys individual post-season. This is a precedent that is already set in a sport like golf. Girls cannot enter both the boys and girls post-season, but could enter one of them. Note that a girl could opt into the girls individual post-season and still be allowed to enter team post-season competitions (team duals) with the boys.

If a school has a boys and girls team, will a girl on the boys team be eligible to wrestle in the post-season girls event?

If a girl chooses to wrestle on the boys team when there is also a girls team at her school, then that girl cannot opt into the girls post-season.

How many girls can be entered into the post-season per team?

A team can enter one wrestler per weight class into individual post-season competition.

Can a girl practice with a girls team or a boys team, but not be officially rostered, and compete during the season or post-season?

No. A wrestler must be rostered on a PIAA wrestling team and adhering to all PIAA rules to compete in season and be eligible for the post-season.

Can a girl wrestle for a club during the season and compete in the post-season?

No. A wrestler must be rostered on a PIAA wrestling team and adhere to all PIAA rules to compete in season and be eligible for the post-season.

Can a girl be home-schooled and be eligible to compete during the season or post-season?

Yes. Per PIAA policy, a student that is home-schooled may participate in athletics in the local public school in which they reside. An athlete would need to be rostered with that team and following all PIAA rules, like other PIAA student-athletes. A home-schooled student could not be unaffiliated with a PIAA-member team and then opt into the post-season.

Can a girl attend a cyber school or charter school and be eligible to compete during the season or post-season?

A girl attending a charter school can wrestle for the charter school's wrestling team. If the school does not sponsor wrestling, then the girl is eligible to wrestle for the public school team in her district of residence. The girl would need to be fully rostered with that team and adhering to all PIAA rules to be eligible for competition.

A girl attending cyber school is eligible to wrestle for the public school team in her district of residence. The girl would need to be fully rostered with that team and adhering to all PIAA rules to be eligible for competition.

Can a girl attend a Catholic School that does not sponsor wrestling and be eligible to compete during the season or post-season?

With the Catholic School's permission (assuming it is a PIAA-member school), the following provision may permit the girl to participate during the regular and postseason, even if their school does not sponsor a team in the sport:

Policy Concerning Qualification For Postseason Competition Of Individual Students From Schools That Do Not Sponsor A Team During The Regular Season

A student attending a member school that does not sponsor a Team which participates in at least 50% of the maximum permitted number of Regular Season Contests in a particular sport, may qualify for the first round of Postseason competition (District or Region meet or Tournament, as applicable) in that sport during a Regular Season Contest being conducted by another member school, in either of the following ways:

1. Where qualification is or may be based on achieving a particular performance level, by achieving that level.
2. Where qualification is based on placing in the competition, by so placing.

With the exception of invitational meets or Tournaments and conference or league championship meets or Tournaments, placement and Team points shall be awarded to the other member schools as if the student from the non-sponsoring member school had not participated in that Contest.

A PIAA Contest official registered in the sport must certify to the contestant's performance, in writing, to the District or Region meet or Tournament director. It is the responsibility of the student's school Principal or Athletic Director to make the necessary arrangements with the host member schools a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the meet or Tournament.

All students who are attempting to qualify to the District or Region meet or Tournament under the procedures described above must meet all PIAA eligibility rules and requirements and must be accompanied and supervised by a Coach from the member school that the student is representing, or by a full-time professional employee of the school or school district in lieu of a Coach. The Coach or full-time professional employee must be a properly designated representative of the school for the student, and that Coach or full-time professional employee must be fully responsible for supervision of the student.

Moves and Transfers

Girls wrestling will be subject to the same transfer rules as any other sport under PIAA (Article VI: Transfers, Residence and Recruiting of the PIAA By-Laws).

Cooperative Sponsorship Agreements

If a school does not offer girls wrestling, can a girl from that school join the team of another school?

For cyber, charter, or Catholic school students, please see the Post-Season section above.

For girls at a PIAA-member public or private school without a girls wrestling team, it may be possible to join the team of another school if a Cooperative Sponsorship Agreement is in place. Please see the next question for more information.

If our school does not have a girls wrestling team, can our school co-op with a school with a girls wrestling team?

Co-ops (Cooperative Sponsorship Agreements) are covered by PIAA policy and permit girls at a school without a girls team to join the girls team at another school if certain criteria are met:

Section 10. Cooperative Sponsorship of a Sport.

A. Philosophy.

The philosophy that guides the PIAA Board of Directors in reviewing and approving applications for Cooperative Sponsorship of a Sport between two or more PIAA member schools is as follows:

1. The Board supports opportunities for greater student participation.
2. The Board encourages projects that combine smaller PIAA member schools for sponsorship of an activity rather than a small PIAA member school combining with a larger PIAA member school when the smaller PIAA member school cannot support the activity alone.
3. The Board will not approve agreements where an intent of the agreement is to improve the quality of a Team (i.e., obtain a better win/loss record).
4. The Board will not approve agreements whereby:
 - (a) any students enrolled at any of the PIAA member schools entering into the agreement would be prohibited from participation in the sports governed by the agreement because of the location of their residence;
 - (b) one of the PIAA member schools is a public school and the agreement would bar any Home-Schooled Students who are otherwise eligible at that school from participating on the Team(s) covered by the agreement; and/or
 - (c) more than one school to the agreement is to host the same sport.
5. The Board will neither consider nor approve agreements with non-PIAA member schools.
6. The public school districts of the participating PIAA member schools must be contiguous and/or overlap.

B. Provisions Applicable to all Agreements.

1. School Enrollments:

(a) For cooperative sponsorship of a boys' sport, the male enrollment, as of the date as of which schools report their enrollments to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) of each odd-numbered year, in each of the schools but one in grades nine through eleven must be 300 students or less. For cooperative sponsorship of a girls' sport, the female enrollment, as of the date as of which schools report their enrollments to PDE of each odd-numbered year, in each of the schools but one in grades nine through eleven must be 300 students or less.

NOTE: The District Committee and Board of Directors may consider approval of agreements in which more than one school is over the 300 limit with consideration given, but not limited to, the following parameters:

- a) For team sports, the schools agree to forego participation in any post-season competition;
- b) The schools have demonstrated lack of success in the respective programs;
- c) The schools have demonstrated lack of participation numbers in the respective programs;
- d) The schools have exhausted possibilities of agreements with smaller sized schools.

(b) The combined male enrollment, as of the date as of which schools report their enrollments to PDE of each odd-numbered year, of (1) all male students enrolled in the school with the highest male enrollment of those schools involved in the cooperative sponsorship of a boys' sport and (2) 50% of all male students enrolled in other schools participating in the cooperative sponsorship of the boys' sport, will determine the classification of the Team in that sport. The combined female enrollment, as of the date as of which schools report their enrollments to PDE of each odd-numbered year, of (1) all female students enrolled in the school with the highest female enrollment of those schools involved in the cooperative sponsorship of a girls' sport and (2) 50% of all female students enrolled in other schools participating in the cooperative sponsorship of the girls' sport, will determine the classification of the Team in that sport.

2. Requests to Approve Agreements:

(a) Requests to approve Cooperative Sponsorship of a Sport agreements must be submitted by the requesting PIAA member schools to the applicable PIAA District Committee. Following consideration, the PIAA District Committee shall forward the request, together with its recommendation, to the PIAA Board of Directors for its consideration.

(b) For agreements between public schools within a single public school district, said requests for approval must include the approving resolution of the School Board having jurisdiction over the PIAA member schools. For all other PIAA member schools, said requests for approval must include the proposed agreement between the participating PIAA member schools. The resolution or agreement, as applicable, must fully delineate the terms and conditions that pertain to the Cooperative Sponsorship of a Sport by the participating PIAA member schools, including at least the following:

- (1) Introduction and purpose of agreement.
- (2) Timeline for implementation.
- (3) Duration of agreement (must be for at least a two-year enrollment classification cycle).
- (4) Administrative responsibility, liability, and insurance.
- (5) Team name and uniforms.
- (6) Financial arrangements.
- (7) Staffing.
- (8) Operating procedures.
- (9) Facilities.
- (10) Transportation.

(c) Requests for approval of Cooperative Sponsorship of a Sport agreements, which **would not** affect the classification size of a Team, may be submitted at any time to the applicable PIAA District Committee for its approval and then forwarded to the Board of Directors for its approval.

(d) Requests for approval of Cooperative Sponsorship of a Sport agreements, which **would** affect the classification size of a Team, must be approved by the applicable PIAA District Committee, and submitted to the PIAA Board of Directors by **October 1st** of any odd-numbered year to be considered for approval for the immediately following two-year reclassification cycle.

(e) The District Committee and Board of Directors may consider approval of agreements which would affect the classification size of a Team during the current classification cycle with consideration given to the following parameters:

- (1) For team sports, the schools agree to forego participation in any post-season competition;
- (2) Whether the schools have demonstrated lack of success in the respective programs;
- (3) Whether the schools have demonstrated lack of participation numbers in the respective programs; and
- (4) Requests to modify a cooperative sponsorship of a sport agreement that changes the classification of a Team, shall not be approved if submitted after the start of the sport(s) Regular Season.

More information can be found in the [PIAA Handbook](#).

Junior High Girls Wrestling

[PIAA sponsorship of girls wrestling includes sponsorship of girls wrestling at the Junior High level.](#)

Is junior high girls wrestling sanctioned?

Yes. With PIAA sponsorship of girls wrestling, this includes sponsorship of the sport at the JH level.

What does sanctioning mean for junior high student-athletes?

Sanctioning means that girls wrestling is an official JH PIAA sport. If a JH forms a girls team, the sport will bring similar benefits to girls teams at the HS level: it provides an opportunity for girls to wrestle against girls and also have their own set of competition points. Schools are encouraged to consider this option for their female athletes.

Since JH girls wrestling is sponsored by the PIAA, will there be a state championship at the JH level?

There is no PIAA State tournament on the JH level. This is true for all PIAA sports. PIAA by-laws prohibit sponsorship of an inter-district or state championship at the JH level. District JH championships are permitted, but most districts do not sponsor District Championships at the junior high level. Culminating events at those levels may exist as league end of season tournaments.

What are the weight classes for JH girls wrestling?

This has yet to be determined.

Where can JH girls compete?

JH girls can compete in PIAA events with their school's boys team or girls team, wherever they are rostered. They can also enter open events, however they cannot represent their school at open events.

A list of in-season girls HS and JH tournaments can be found at www.sanctionpa.com/events

Can JH girls practice with HS girls?

PIAA by-laws prohibit JH and HS wrestlers from physically wrestling each other. Further, JH athletes may not physically practice with or against athletes at the HS level. However, schools are permitted to hold practices with JH and HS athletes present within the same space and receiving common instruction.

Can 9th graders wrestle with the JH or HS team?

Yes, 9th grade girls can be rostered with the HS team (boys or girls) or the JH team (boys or girls). They cannot be rostered with both a JH or HS team in the same season. Once the determination to compete at a level (JH or HS) is made, it cannot be changed for the remainder of the season. They also cannot be rostered on both the boys and girls team in the same season.

Forming a Girls Wrestling Team

Can we still form a girls wrestling team now that girls wrestling is a PIAA sponsored sport?

Absolutely!

What is the deadline for forming a team for the 2023-2024 season?

The deadline for forming a team to be recognized for the 2023-2024 season is prior to the first practice date of November 17, 2023.

How do we form a girls wrestling team now that it is a PIAA sponsored sport?

Schools can start girls wrestling teams by utilizing the PIAA portal and marking "Girls Wrestling" as a sport the school sponsors. With the designation of girls wrestling as a sponsored PIAA sport, the PIAA has added girls wrestling as a sport that schools can select in their information on the PIAA platform. This will result in the list aggregating on the PIAA classification page, girls wrestling populating as a sport on a school's PIAA profile, and girls wrestling being listed as a sport that coaches can select in their profiles.

Please note that because girls wrestling will be under PIAA jurisdiction, informing SanctionPA will no longer be necessary and instead schools MUST report sponsorship to the PIAA using the portal.

If we have already formed a girls team, is there anything else we need to do to with the PIAA?

If you have already formed a girls team, your school will need to utilize the PIAA portal and mark "Girls Wrestling" as a sport the school sponsors. This is not something that is automatically completed by the PIAA, it must be done by each individual school sponsoring the sport. Even if you have formed a team, make sure you complete this step. This will result in the list aggregating on the PIAA classification page, girls wrestling populating as a sport on a school's PIAA profile, and girls wrestling being listed as a sport that coaches can select in their profiles. Since PIAA will be accepting enrollment numbers October 1 this fall, school sport sponsorship could be updated at that time.

Should our school still consider forming a team now that the sport has already reached 100 schools and is already sanctioned?

Yes! Adding girls wrestling at your school still brings all the same benefits to your school community, including greater student engagement, scholarship opportunities and increased post-secondary matriculation, assistance with Title IX compliance, and many more that you can read about [here](#). In addition, if a school does not sponsor a girls team, any girls on the boys team will not be able to compete in PIAA girls' events without using boys' competition points. Forming a girls team helps ensure equitable opportunities for your female athletes. In addition, indicating school sponsorship will assist in determining qualifiers for each District for the next classification cycle.